

CLAIMS LISTING:

1. – 28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) A lock assembly which prevents a vehicle door from being opened by securing a vehicle door element, the lock assembly comprising:

a movable bolt, wherein the bolt secures the vehicle door element to prevent the door from being opened when the bolt is in a locked position and wherein the bolt allows the vehicle door element to be removed from the lock assembly, thereby enabling the vehicle door to be opened, when the bolt is in an unlocked position;

a catch that moves relative to the bolt, wherein the catch prevents the bolt from moving from the bolt's locked position to the bolt's unlocked position when the catch is in a locked position and wherein the catch allows the bolt to move from the bolt's locked position to the bolt's unlocked position when the catch is in an unlocked position;

a cable seat operatively connected to the catch, the cable seat being configured to transmit force applied to it to the catch so as to move the catch from its locked position to its unlocked position;

a cable having a free end and supported in a manner which permits the free end to move generally toward the cable seat; and

a cable-positioning operating device having a locked position and an unlocked position;

wherein the cable seat, the cable, and the cable-positioning operating device are mutually arranged and configured such that 1) when the cable-positioning operating device is in its unlocked position, longitudinal movement of the cable toward the cable seat brings the free end of the cable into engagement with the cable seat, whereby the catch is caused to move from its locked position to its unlocked position so that the bolt can be moved from its locked position to its unlocked position; and 2) when the cable-positioning operating device is in its locked position, the free end of the cable does not engage the cable seat upon longitudinal movement of the cable generally toward the cable seat.

30. (New) The lock assembly of claim 29, wherein the catch is caused to move from its locked position to its unlocked position by continued longitudinal movement of the cable after the free end of the cable contacts the cable seat.

31. (New) The lock assembly of claim 29, wherein movement of the cable-positioning operating device from its locked position to its unlocked position effects lateral deflection of the free end of the cable.

32. (New) The lock assembly of claim 29, wherein the bolt pivots.

33. (New) The lock assembly of claim 29, wherein the catch pivots.

34. (New) The lock assembly of claim 29, wherein the cable seat is part of the catch.

35. (New) The lock assembly of claim 29, wherein the cable is supported within a sheath and the free end of the cable extends out of the sheath.

36. (New) The lock assembly of claim 29, wherein the cable-positioning operating device is an electrically, pneumatically, hydraulically, thermally, magnetically, electrochemically, or piezoelectrically operated device.

37. (New) The lock assembly of claim 29, wherein the cable-positioning operating device is a mechanically operated device.

38. (New) The lock assembly of claim 29, wherein the cable is connected to the cable-positioning operating device.

39. (New) The lock assembly of claim 29, wherein the cable-positioning operating device reciprocates linearly between its locked and unlocked positions.

40. (New) The lock assembly of claim 29, wherein the cable-positioning operating device pivots between its locked and unlocked positions.

41. (New) The lock assembly of claim 40, wherein the cable-positioning operating device has a loop through which the free end of the cable passes, whereby pivoting of the cable-positioning operating device changes the orientation of the free end of the cable vis-à-vis the cable seat.